

Appln. No.: 10/784,342
Amendment Dated March 1, 2007
Reply to Office Action of December 11, 2006

MAT-8508US

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 6-8C. These sheets replace the original sheets.

Attachments

Remarks/Arguments:

Preliminary Matters

Claims 1-6 are presently pending and all pending claims stand rejected. Claim 1 is herein amended. Support for the amendment can be found on the second and third full paragraphs of page 11 and throughout the originally filed specification. No new matter has been added.

Applicants' invention, as defined by claim 1, relates to a remote control transmitter for selectively and remotely controlling an apparatus. The remote control transmitter includes a display part for displaying an apparatus menu, a plurality of individual functions of an apparatus to be remotely controlled, and a group menu representing the combination of individual functions. In response to the selection of an apparatus to be controlled from the apparatus menu, the display part simultaneously displays the group menu and the plurality of individual functions that correspond to a selection from the group menu.

Objection to the Drawings

Figures 6-8C were objected to for reasons stated on page 2, section 2 of the Office Action. Applicants herein amend Figures 6-8C to include the legend "Prior Art".

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Klein (US 2003009515A1) for reasons stated on page 4, section 6 of the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention as defined in claim 1 includes a feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by Klein, namely:

...the display part to *simultaneously* display, the apparatus menu, the group menu *in response to the selection of the apparatus*, and the plurality of individual functions, corresponding to a selection from the group menu when the group menu is selected by the operation of the operating part.

This is different from Klein because Klein neither discloses nor suggests simultaneously displaying the apparatus menu, the group menu in response to selecting an apparatus from the apparatus menu, and the individual functions corresponding to a selection from the group menu. Instead, Klein teaches a hand held remote control device that displays two types of menus at a time. FIG. 3 of Klein, for example, shows home icon 90 (i.e. group menu) selected. Selection of the home icon displays mode wheel 60 (i.e. apparatus menu) in which an apparatus to be controlled may be selected. Klein, however, does not disclose or suggest that the group menu is displayed in response to selecting an apparatus from the apparatus menu nor that individual functions of a selection from the group menu is simultaneously displayed with the apparatus menu.

On page 4, section 6 of the Office Action, it was recited that FIG. 4 of Klein shows that the display part "simultaneously display group menu 90, 68, 74 and individual functions 72." FIG. 4 of Klein, however, does not show an apparatus menu for selection of an apparatus to be controlled. Rather, selection of an apparatus to be controlled is selected from the mode wheel as shown in FIGs. 2 and 3 of Klein, when the home icon (i.e. group menu) is selected.

It is because Applicants' include the feature of simultaneously displaying the apparatus menu, the group menu in response to the selection of the apparatus to be controlled from the apparatus menu, and the plurality of individual functions, corresponding to a selection from the group menu that the following advantages are achieved. According to the Applicants' specification on page 11, paragraphs 2-3, displaying the apparatus menu in addition to the group menu and individual functions facilitates the selection of a group menu or specified individual function of the selected apparatus.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over Klein. Claims 2-6 include all the features of claim 1 from which they depend. Thus, claims 2-6 are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 2 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Klein (US2003009515A1) in combination with Arling (US006788241B2) for reasons stated on page 5, section 7 of the Office Action. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendment to claim 1. In particular, neither Klein nor Arling (either alone or in combination) disclose or suggest that the display part "simultaneously display, the apparatus menu, the

group menu in response to the selection of the apparatus, and the plurality of individual functions, corresponding to a selection from the group menu when the group menu is selected by the operation of the operating part."

Klein has been described above. Arling concerns a different aspect of the system disclosed in Klein. It relates to a remote control device in which key use is monitored. Arling teaches that an activity key may be programmed to perform a series of actions that are representative of a sequence of monitored key uses. Arling also describes a GUI system in column 4, line 40 - column 5, line 13 (See also FIGs. 2-4) which includes a home page icon 50 and a remote control icon 51. Selection of the home page icon 50 displays a circular queue of appliance icons 55 which represent individual appliances to be controlled. After an appliance is selected from the circular queue, the remote control icon 51 is selected to display only the individual functions of the selected appliance. Accordingly, Arling does not provide the material that is missing from Klein. Consequently, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Klein and Arling.

Claims 2 and 5-6 include all the features of claim 1 from which they depend. Thus, claims 2 and 5-6 are also patentable over Klein and Arling by virtue of their dependency on the allowable base claim. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 and 5-6 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Klein (US2003009515A1) in combination with Cove (US006266098B1) for reasons stated on page 6, section 8 of the Office Action. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendment to claim 1. In particular, neither Klein nor Cove (either alone or in combination) disclose or suggest that the display part "simultaneously display, the apparatus menu, the group menu in response to the selection of the apparatus, and the plurality of individual functions, corresponding to a selection from the group menu when the group menu is selected by the operation of the operating part."

Klein has been described above. Cove discloses a multi-function system that supports user selection of system functions by a rotatable function menu. The rotatable function menu is rotated on an axis to select a desired function. Subfunctions of a selected function may then be displayed and navigated through by one or more submenus of the selected function.

Accordingly, Cove does not provide the material that is missing from Klein. Consequently, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Klein and Cove.

Claim 4 includes all the features of claim 1 from which it depends. Thus, claim 4 is also patentable over Klein and Cove by virtue of its dependency on the allowable base claim. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) is respectfully requested.

The references that were cited but not applied have been considered but do not affect the patentability of any claim.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicant submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachments: Figures 6, 7, 8A, 8B, 8C (3 sheets)

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